

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA
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P 270052Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 135577

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: CASC, EFIN, NI

SUBJECT:AIG: LOUIS LEFEVRE APPLICATION TO MAGISTRATE
TO LEAVE LAGOS

REF: 134185, B) 134532, C) 127137

1. SHELPH, OF AIG, INFORMS US THAT COMPANY, YIELDING TO PRESSURE OF LEFEVRE FAMILY, IS SOLICITING THE ASSISTANCE OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE THE AGREEMENT OF A MAGISTRATE IN NIGERIA TO ALLOW AIG'S MANAGING DIRECTOR LEFEVRE TO LEAVE NIGERIA ALTHOUGH HE MAY BE INVOLVED IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. SHELPH TELLS US THAT HE HAS WRITTEN IDENTICAL LETTERS TO SENATORS ROTH AND BIDEN (DELAWARE) SOLICITING THEIR INTERVENTION WITH THE EMBASSY TO ASSIST LEFEVRE. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE TEXT OF THE LETTER BUT SHELPH SAYS IT SAYS LEFEVRE'S MOTHER'S HEALTH HAS DETERIORATED AND NOTES THAT THE COMPANY WILL DO AS MUCH AS IS APPROPRIATE TO ENSURE LEFEVRE'S CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES IF HE IS ALLOWED TO DEPART.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 135577

2. AF/W HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH LEFEVRE'S SISTER (MRS. RUTLEDGE) AND AUNT (MILDRED LAYNE), WHO LIVES WITH LEFEVRE'S MOTHER IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA. LAYNE INFORMS

US THAT LEFEVRE'S MOTHER'S HEALTH HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE LEFEVRE CASE. SHE SAYS LEFEVRE'S MOTHER'S

BLOOD PRESSURE HAS RISEN AND IS NOT RESPONDING AS BEFORE TO MEDICATION. MRS. LEFEVRE IS STILL AT HOME IN THE CARE OF A COMPANION, WHO HAS BEEN WITH HER SINCE HER LAST STROKE SOME THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO. THE COMPANION IS NOT A TRAINED NURSE. CONTRARY TO REF A, MRS. LEFEVRE IS NOT HOSPITALIZED ALTHOUGH SHE HAS FREQUENT CHECK UPS AT HOSPITAL. LAYNE INFORMS US THAT SHE BELIEVES HER HEALTH WOULD IMPROVE IF LEFEVRE WERE ALLOWED TO DEPART FROM NIGERIA.

3. MRS. LEFEVRE'S PHYSICIAN HAS BEEN IN LONDON FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. BROWER, AIG'S ATTORNEY FROM WHITE AND CASE, WAS SCHEDULED TO PICK UP A STATEMENT OF HER HEALTH FROM THE PHYSICIAN ON HIS WAY THROUGH LONDON TO LAGOS. WE BELIEVE THIS HAS BEEN DONE, AND THAT THIS STATEMENT WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION TO THE MAGISTRATE. WE UNDERSTAND BRIEF WILL BE FILED MONDAY, MAY 29.

4. WE EXPECT FURTHER INDICATIONS OF INTEREST IN THIS CASE AND REQUESTS FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

5. COMPANY BELIEVES THAT LEFEVRE MAY BECOME OVERLY CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF HIS MOTHER'S HEALTH AS A RESULT OF THE COMPANY'S EFFORTS TO ENLIST THE ASSISTANCE OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 135577

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. WE BELIEVE BROWER, WHO SAW MRS. LEFEVRE SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, HAS BROUGHT HIM UP TO DATE. PHYSICIAN'S STATEMENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEST AND MOST ACCURATE STATEMENT OF FACT AVAILABLE.

6. EMBASSY SHOULD RENDER EVERY APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO LEFEVRE IN HIS APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. VANCE

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